

50 Things to do in Brighton



1. Take a tour of the Royal Pavilion

The stunning seaside palace of the Prince Regent (George IV), transformed by John Nash into one of the most dazzling and exotic buildings in the British Isles, is a must see. www.royalpavilion.org.uk

2. Go to the beach

Featured in Enjoy Englands Top 10 beach destinations, Brighton is officially one of the nation's favourite seaside resorts. Fashionable, fun and funky, Brighton is loaded with style and offers everything you could want from a seaside holiday.

3. Experience Amazonia at the Sea Life Centre

With 150 species and 57 displays, you'll be hard pressed to find a more enjoyable day out for the whole family! From cute undulate rays and Submarine Adventures to giant turtles and Amazonia – the new rainforest mirror maze. www.sealifeeurope.com

4. Download a Cool City Walk

Combine a compact, walkable city with rich heritage and stunning Regency architecture and you've got the perfect place for a walking tour! Hear about Brighton's fascinating history and discover lots of interesting facts by downloading www.coolcitywalks.com/brighton/index.php onto your MP3 player.

5. Go orb-ing or mountain boarding

Its quirky and its crazy! Jump into a 12ft PVC orb and hurtle down a hill on the beautiful South Downs at speeds of up to 30mph. Or for sun, surf and dirt, check out some extreme mountain boarding. www.orb360.co.uk and www.board360.co.uk

6. Go 'On the Pull' at Brighton Museum

Come along with your friends and lovers to discover the hidden love stories of objects in the museum. Through music, film, paintings, pottery and postcards, explore love, lust, adultery, intrigue and revenge across the ages. www.brighton.virtualmuseum.info

7. Enjoy fresh air, stunning views, fine food, music and film

Spend a weekend on the South Downs taking in the fresh air and stunning views. Enjoy fine, organic food whilst watching a film and listening to live music and watch the sunset in the driest underfoot site in Brighton. www.beachdownfestival.com

For all things Brighton: www.visitbrighton.com

8. Take the train to Horror Hotel on Brighton Pier

Scared? You will be. The pier's ghost train to Horror Hotel will have you shaking in your seat. Thrill seekers should also check out the Super Booster, which rockets from 0-60mph in under 3 seconds taking you 38 metres up, before hurtling you back down again! Go on, we dare you!
www.brightonpier.co.uk

9. Chill out at a cricket match

Sit back, relax and join the men in white as leather hits willow in Hove actually. You might even see a googly! Howzat! www.sussexcricket.co.uk

10. Get arty at Ocontemporary

Go modern at Ocontemporary, one of the UK's top contemporary art spaces. Showcasing a compelling and diverse selection of national and international artists' work, including Damien Hirst, David Hockney and Tracey Emin, as well as hot, new emerging artists. Ocontemporary is where art's at! www.ocontemporary.com

11. Be happy!

Need re-juvenating? Pack your bags and come to Brighton and we'll soon sort you out. Dubbed the happiest place in the country according to a survey by O2, Brighton offers all the benefits of a city - such as the culture, shopping, restaurants and nightlife - with the added bonus of the sea, making it all a bit relaxing and calm. Zzzzz. (Oops, sorry, we got a bit too relaxed there...)

12. Shop for art at the seafront galleries

Nestling under small Victorian arches on Brighton's beachfront lies the bohemian Artists' Quarter, housing a collection of quaint and funky artists' studio spaces. Grab a coffee, amble through the studios and sift through the eclectic artwork on display.

13. Take a seafront 'healthwalk'

With regular information boards along the route, with advice on how to get the most from your walk, as well as details of where to leave the seafront for major parts of town, a healthwalk from Hove Lagoon to the Marina (4 miles) is a great way to see the city.

14. Take a Bus Walk to the Chattri, Hangleton or Mile Oak

Take one of the Bus Walks for a fun day out. Ride by bus to a point in Brighton, follow the route instructions and after a brisk walk on the South Downs return to your bus stop for the journey home. Nothing healthier on a fine day. www.visitsouthdowns.com

15. Take a stroll in Stanmer Park

Throw on your walking boots and set off for the Great Wood, roam across the downland or stumble into Pudding Bag Wood! Stanmer Park was named as one of Britain's Top 10 walks by the Independent newspaper. www.stanmerpark.co.uk

16. Take a trip on the world's oldest operating electric railway

Not quite the first example of electric traction in the world, but nearly! Today it holds the deserved position of being the oldest remaining operating electric railway in the world. Jump aboard, sit back and pootle along the beachfront for superb views out to sea. www.volkselectricrailway.co.uk

17. Relax in Kipling's Gardens and visit Grange Museum in Rottingdean

Named after the village's most famous resident, these delightful gardens are full of olde world charm. Check out the rose or herb garden or relax in the chalk garden. Beautifully laid out there are no jungles here! His home in Rottingdean, now Grange Museum, houses Kipling memorabilia, as well as exhibitions of work by Sussex artists. www.rottingdean.uk.com

For all things Brighton: www.visitbrighton.com

18. Indulge in a day at the Races

Fancy a flutter? Check out John Smith's Race Day, don your finest hats for Ladies Day or place a bet on your favourite gee gee at the seaside course where the turf meets the surf! www.brighton-racecourse.co.uk

19. Take afternoon tea at the Grand

Savour your scones in sumptuous style at the lush De Vere Grand, with an afternoon tea to die for... Smoked salmon sandwiches, chocolate dipped strawberries and a naughty cream horn await all you sweet toothed lovelies! Truly scrumptious. www.grandbrighton.co.uk

20. Check out the camera obscura at Foredown Tower

Foredown Tower Countryside Centre is home to one of only two operational camera obscuras in South East England. A great day out, the Edwardian Tower also offers breathtaking views across Sussex and is the perfect starting point for a walk on the Downs. www.foredown.virtualmuseum.info

21. Wander along the undercliff walk

Jump on the Volks Railway at Brighton Pier, jump off at Black Rock near the Marina, and rejuvenate with some sea air and a leisurely summer stroll along the impressive Undercliff Walk to Saltdean.

22. Play a round of golf indoors!

With Golf Addiction's virtual golf course, you can practice your handicap whatever the weather! Whether you're a complete novice or an aspiring pro, with Golf Addiction's state of the art 'virtual' golf, you simply tee up, select a club and get going. www.golfaddiction.co.uk

23. Take a trip to Blatchington Mill

The restored mill at West Blatchington is a Grade II listed building and well worth a visit. Make a clean sweep and find out about the history of milling and check out scale models of Shipley smock mill and Nutley post mill. Open Sundays and Bank Holidays from May to September. www.blatchington.virtualmuseum.info

24. Vroom by the sea!

Vroom - Brighton's first scooter, motorcycle and lifestyle hire company offers you the chance to ride Piaggio's iconic Vespa around the UK's most fun and funky city, or get out and about amongst the beautiful Sussex countryside. www.vroombythesea.com

25. Swim in the sea

Long treasured by bathers and promenading tourists, visitors to Brighton beach can now take another comfort from the famous pebbly shores. Recently awarded Blue Flag status in recognition of its cleanliness and water quality, taking the plunge has never been cleaner!

26. Enjoy a pleasure cruise

Nothing quite like a life on the ocean waves. Enjoy a 45 minute pleasure cruise along the coast and past the 2 piers or join a 90 minute mackerel fishing trip. www.watertours.co.uk

27. Eat a picnic at Devil's Dyke

Pack the sarnies and ginger beer, pull out your best blanket and roll up to Devil's Dyke for a chilled out day on the Downs. Sit back, relax and take in the views north towards the Weald and south over the sea. Did you know it's also the largest chalkland dry combe in Britain?

28. Go veggietastic at Terre à Terre

With veggie delights to turn the most avid carnivore, Terre à Terre being a whole new meaning to the term vegetarian with a mouth-watering menu of sublime veggie dishes. Drop in and go veggietastic. Bring the kids, bring Gran, bring Aunt Flo – bring everyone! www.terreaterre.co.uk

For all things Brighton: www.visitbrighton.com

29. Get fishy at Brighton Fishing Museum

Think you know your cod from your crayfish? Check out Brighton Fishing Museum, where you can sample some shellfish, take in an olde traditional smoker and find out all there is to know about fishing in Brighton. You might even get the fishy low-down from a working fisherman!

30. Drop in at the Duke of Yorks

A must for art house lovelies, the Duke of York's Picture House was one of the first cinemas in the world. They've got cracking art house films, comfy seats, a huge pair of legs on the roof and they sell cake! (And wine too apparently, but we wouldn't know about that!) www.picturehouses.co.uk

31. Indulge in champagne and oysters at Riddle and Finns

Relax in style at Riddle and Finns', delicious champagne and oyster bar. Indulge in sumptuous seafood, sip chilled champagne and sit at marble topped tables, safe in the hands of the friendly, knowledgeable staff. The perfect post shopping or pre-theatre treat! www.riddleandfinns.co.uk

32. Buy vegetarian shoes in the North Laine area

Well known for its eco friendly and environmental approach to life, Brighton has its very own vegetarian shoe shop. You'll be surprised at the wide range of shoes, boots, sandals and belts on offer. Who says feet can't go veggie? www.vegetarian-shoes.co.uk

33. Take a tour of the old police cells

Ello, Ello, Ello. Learn about life on the beat in Brighton and visit the old police cells with this unique tour. See the fascinating collection of local Police memorabilia and find out all about the grisly goings on of 1844, when Constable Solomon was murdered by a prisoner. www.oldpolicecellsmuseum.org.uk

34. Go luvvy with a tour of the Theatre Royal

From Marlene Dietrich to Laurence Olivier, a host of thespian lovelies have trodden the boards at the Theatre Royal. See the infamous 'gulp bar' – you might even catch a glimpse of the resident theatre ghost. You can also join a 'behind the scenes' tour on Saturday mornings. www.theambassadors.com/theatreroyal

35. Get down and dirty with a sewer tour

Brighton's Victorian sewerage system is one of the most magnificent examples of civil engineering of its kind and the sewer tours have become a popular attraction for tourists. Don't worry though; drainage and water disposal has come a long way in Brighton since Victorian times! 0845 278 0845

36. Laugh your socks off at Brighton Komedia

One of Brighton's premier live entertainment venues, Komedia presents one of the largest, most diverse arts and entertainment programmes in the UK. With around 700 performances of music, comedy, cabaret and theatre to choose from in 2008 you won't be spoilt for choice! www.komedia.co.uk

37. Get spooky with a Preston Manor ghost tour

Join Daisy the Housemaid for eerie tales of Victorian séances and the chilling White Lady at Brighton's favourite haunted house. Watch out for slamming doors and mysterious wafts of lavender in the Morning Room. Take the Twilight Tour – if you dare! BOO! www.prestonmanor.virtualmuseum.info

38. Visit Brighton Toy and Model Museum

A treat for the kids big and small! Brighton Toy and Model Museum is an Aladdin's cave of the finest toys and models, situated beneath Brighton Station, including mechanical toys and models, dolls house furniture and puppets dating back to the 1790s. www.brightontoymuseum.co.uk

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39. Go bouldering at Yellowwave Beach Sports

Anyone for beachminton or bouldering? Check out Brighton's award winning beach sports venue where sand based sports from volleyball to Ultimate Frisbee have taken the city by storm. You can also have a go at bouldering – low-level climbing with a soft sand landing! www.yellowwave.co.uk

40. Breeze up to the Downs

Jump aboard one of the bus services linking the city with some of the area's finest countryside. With the Downs literally on the Doorstep, you're just minutes away from Devil's Dyke, Stanmer Park and Ditchling Beacon. Ooo, it just makes you want to getaway! 01273 292480

41. Get messy with some Hands on Pottery

Tap into your creative side with some Hands on Pottery. Make a mobile, paint a pot but try not to smash a plate? Within a lovely garden setting, you'll get the opportunity to express yourself, safe in the hands of professional pottery makers. A great way to unwind. www.hands-onpottery.com

42. Check out the Chattri

A unique monument on the beautiful South Downs dedicated to Indian Soldiers who died in WWI, the Chattri was unveiled in 1921 by the then Prince of Wales. Accessible by bridleway, you can walk, cycle or even horseride your way there! www.black-history.org.uk/chattri.asp

43. Visit the Booth Museum of Natural History

Check out whale and dinosaur bones and over half a million other specimens, including natural history literature extending back over three centuries. www.booth.virtualmuseum.info

44. Visit the highest Parish church in Britain

St Bartholomew's Church is one of the great churches of the 19th century. The highest in Britain, it's a wonderful building. A masterpiece of brickwork and a credit to its architect, Edmund Scott, it's definitely a hidden gem of the city and well worth a visit. www.stbartholomewsbrighton.org.uk

45. Check out the Brighton Earthship

The first of its kind in England. Earthship Brighton is a solar powered, eco friendly building built from used tyres. A great day out with a difference. Tours of the Earthship are educational and fun and include an overview of the Stanmer Organic consortium. www.lowcarbon.co.uk

46. Soar over Brighton in an art deco bi-plane

Don your flight goggles and experience the golden age of flying with a breathtaking trip over Brighton and the Sussex coast in a 1930's vintage art deco bi-plane. Chocks away! www.deltaaviation.co.uk

47. Have a Roasted Plum Crumble ice cream

Check out Scoop & Crumb for scrummy ice creams and sorbets including Rhubarb & Custard, Sherry Trifle, Real Tiramisu, Roasted Plum Crumble & Mixed Berry Burst. Yum! 5 & 6 East St, Brighton

48. Hire a bike and cycle across the Downs

What better way to experience the sensation of fresh air and open spaces, whilst getting some exercise and enjoying stunning views across Sussex and the sea? www.visitsouthdowns.com

49. Get jazzy at the Brunswick Festival

Set up to celebrate the diverse nature of the Brunswick area in Hove, why not drop by the Festival for some foodie treats, street theatre and jaunty jazz, as Brunswick takes Hove by storm in August.

50. Feed the ducks at Queen's Park

Get quacking with the ducks in Queen's Park. Easy to get to, with something for everyone, Queen's Park was formerly a Victorian pleasure garden. The lake is a favourite attraction and feeding the ducks a tranquil way to spend a lazy afternoon before wandering around the wildlife or scented garden.

For all things Brighton: www.visitbrighton.com